

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DAMASC 02553 211756Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----211801Z 048464 /42  
R 211501Z APR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2761

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 2553

STADIS////////////////////////////////

EXDIS

FOR NEA/ARN

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, SY, US  
SUBJECT: DR. MAYER BALAAS

REF: DAMASCUS 2002

1. DR. BALAAS CALLED ON CHARGE APRIL 19 TO BRING US UP TO DATE ON HIS APPLICATION FOR A SYRIAN PASSPORT AND EXIT VISA TO VISIT U.S. FOR MEDICAL SPECIALIZATION (REFTEL PARA. 4). HE SAID THAT EARLIER SAME DAY HE AND COMMUNITY LEADER TOUTAH HAD CALLED ON CO. MESSAOUD, SYRIAN MILITARY INTELLIGENCE OFFICIAL IN CHARGE OF JEWISH COMMUNITY AFFAIRS, TO DISCUS APPLICATION. MESSAOUD SAID LOWER RANKING MILITARY INTELLIGENCE OFFICIALS HAD SUBMITTED APPLICATIONS TO HIM WITH FAVORABLE RECOMMENDATION HE WAS CONCERNED, HOWEVER, WITH PRECEDENT WHICH APPROVAL WOULD PROVIDE BOTH INSIDE AND OUTSIDE JEWISH COMMUNITY. HE WAS ALSO CONCERNED THAT BALAAS' TIES WITH SYRIA WERE WEAK AND SAID HE WOULD BE OBLIGED TO SET VERY HIGH BOND IF APPLICATION APPROVED.

2. MESSAOUD ASKED TOUTAH WHETHER HE WOULD PERSONALLY  
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PAGE 02 DAMASC 02553 211756Z

GUARANTEE BALAAS' RETURN TO SYRIA FOLLOWING SPECIALI-  
ZATION. TOUTAH REPLIED IN NEGATIVE. MESSAOUD SAID  
HE WOULD REFER CASE TO SUPERIORS AND ASKED BALAAS  
TO COME BACK IN TWO WEEKS.

3. BALAAS HAS APPLIED FOR ONE-YEAR PASSPORT BUT STILL  
DOES NOT BELIEVE SARG WILL APPROVE. NEVERTHELESS, HE WAS

ENCOURGAED THAT MESSAOUD HAD NOT REJECTED IT OUT OF HAND.

4. BALAAS ALSO INQUIRED WHETHER EMBASSY HAD RECEIVED  
DSP-66 FROM CONEY ISLAND HOSPITAL WHICH HE SAID SHALOM  
WAS ARRANGING TO SEND.

5. AS OF APRIL 21 DSP-66 NOT RECEIVED. REQUEST ARN  
CONTACT SHALOM TO ASSURE THAT IT HAS BEEN SENT TO EMBASSY  
THROUGH WASHINGTON ADDRESS SO THAT BALAAS APPLICATION FOR  
US VISA CAN BE PROCESSED RAPIDLY IN THE EVENT HE OBTAINS  
PASSPORT.  
PELLETREAU

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** JEWS, COMMUNITY RELATIONS, TRAVEL CONTROLS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 21-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977DAMASC02553  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770139-0112  
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**Message ID:** e8f6b0a1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION SS  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS, STADIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
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**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS, STADIS  
**Reference:** 77 DAMASCUS 2002  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 25-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2741140  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** DR. MAYER BALAAS  
**TAGS:** PINT, PINS, US, SY, (BALAAS, MAYER)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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